

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL PHILIPPINE SCOUTS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation to amend title 38, of the U.S. Code, to provide that persons considered to be members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans and members of the Special Philippine Scouts—by reason of service with the Armed Forces during World War II—should be eligible for full veterans benefits from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

We must correct the grave injustice that has befallen this brave group of veterans, since their valiant service, on behalf of the United States, during World War II.

ON July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order, pursuant to the Philippines Independence Act of 1934, calling members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Forces of the Far East, under the command of Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

For almost 4 years, over one hundred thousand Filipinos, of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the Allies to reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japan. Regrettably, in return, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946. This measure limited veterans eligibility for service-connected disabilities and death compensation and also denied the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army the honor of being recognized as veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

A second group, the Special Philippine Scouts called New Scouts who enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces after October 6, 1945, primarily to perform occupational duty in the Pacific, were similarly excluded from benefits.

I believe it is long overdue to correct this injustice and to provide the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippine Scout with the benefits and the services that they valiantly earned during their service in World War II.

Accordingly, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 836 that will provide veterans of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippine Scouts with the benefits, the compensation, and most importantly with the recognition they courageously earned.

I urge my colleagues to carefully review this legislation that corrects this grave injustice and provides veterans benefits to members of the Philippines Commonwealth Army and the members of the Special Philippine Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the full text of H.R. 836 be included at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 836

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 1995".

**SEC. 2. CERTAIN SERVICE IN THE ORGANIZED MILITARY FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS DEEMED TO BE ACTIVE SERVICE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking out "not" after "Army of the United States, shall"; and

(B) by striking out "except benefits under—" and all that follows and inserting in lieu thereof a period; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking out "not" after "Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945 shall"; and

(B) by striking out "except—" and all that follows and inserting in lieu thereof a period.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

**"§ 107. Certain service deemed to be active service: service in organized military forces of the Philippines and in the Philippine Scouts".**

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is amended to read as follows:

"107. Certain service deemed to be active service: service in organized military forces of the Philippines and in the Philippine Scouts."

**SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on

(b) APPLICABILITY.—No benefits shall accrue to any person for any period before the effective date of this Act by reason of the amendments made by this Act.

HONORING SIOUX TAYLOR

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I speak to honor a woman who has done so much for the people of her community, her city and her State. Sioux Taylor has been active in her community, serving since 1992 as commissioner of the Mount Vernon Recreation Dept. and for 14 years before that as executive director of the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau.

But her contributions exceed that service. Since receiving her masters of science from New York University she has served in many capacities; as a member of the steering committee, New York State Coalition for the Aging, chairperson of the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Institute for Social Change, president of the lay organization, Allen Temple AME Church, as a district leader of the Mount Vernon Democratic Party since 1978, and as a member of the executive committee of the Mount Vernon Council Community Services. She was named 1988 social worker of the year for Westchester County and a year later, social worker of the year: New York State. She was awarded the second annual Governor's Award for African-Americans of Distinction. She has served as the convener and first president of Southern Westchester NOW and is a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus and the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus.

On her retirement, Sioux Taylor leaves her community far richer for her work. She has

been a great help to me, serving as a guide and advisor so I could better represent Mount Vernon in Congress. I join with everyone there in thanking her for all she gave.

ON EDUCATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise the issue of our commitment to our young people. What can we in Congress really do to help them into the 21st Century? What can we do to make sure they have a future? What will we do to make sure they are ready to compete in a global economy?

Mr. Speaker, you know what we have to do. Everyone in this chamber knows what needs to be done. Education, Education, Education. Fix our schools infrastructure, make our schools safer and give our schools standards that make sense.

With all this talk of bipartisanship politics—and I have to admit the members on the other side of the aisle have come a long way from the last Congress when they proposed the largest education cuts in history and wanted to abolish the Department of Education—maybe we can do something this term for our young people. Maybe we can agree that Pell grants need be raised. Maybe we can agree that we can give hope to our young people that they have a chance to go to college if they want to go—that their parents will get a break from the huge financial burden of sending their children to college.

Mr. Speaker, we know what we have to do this term, we know what the American people want us to do for our schools and their children. Let's get about the people's business and get it done, let's get going for the sake of our children and for the sake of the future of this country.

**MODERNIZING THE WHITE COLLAR EXEMPTION OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT**

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 1997

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 1997, I introduced a bill, H.R. 647, to clarify and modernize the white collar exemption of the Fair Labor Standards Act. I hope this bill will receive close attention during this session of Congress.

The Fair Labor Standards Act is intended to protect workers with provisions like the minimum wage and the 40-hour workweek. As a result, any attempt to tinker with the FLSA is immediately perceived as an attack on these basic protections or at least is so portrayed by political opponents. It is apparent, however, that after a half century of hands-off politics, we are left with a law that is out of step with the times and needs improvement.

Two recent developments have brought the issue to a head. First, disgruntled employees have begun to use the FLSA's salary basis